

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 IO-10 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 H-02 SCS-03 SY-05 USSS-00 OPR-02

PC-01 NIC-01 /067 W

----- 007644

R 121051Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6990

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, ELAB, DM

SUBJ: PARAKOU-MALANVILLE ROAD - STRIKE AT MK CONSTRUCTION CAMP

SUMMARY: MK'S DAHOMEAN LABOR FORCE HELD A TWO-DAY STRIKE MARCH 10-11. STRIKE STAGED OVER FIRING OF ONE EMPLOYEE. FOLLOWING EMBASSY REQUEST FOR DAHOMEAN GOVT ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING DISPUTE, MIN OF LAB PROVINCIAL LABOR OFFICER IN PARAKOU WAS SENT TO MK CAMP IN KANDI AND NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. MK'S WORK HAS RESUMED. END SUMMARY

1. AT BEGINNING OF WORK DAY 10 MARCH, CARL OLDS (US CITIZEN, MK PROJECT SUPERINTENFNT) PRESENTED DAHOMEAN EMPLOYEE WITH FIRST OF THREE WARNING LETTERS ADVISING EMPLOYEE OF COMPANY'S INTENTION TO FIRE HIM FOR INEFFICIENCY. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRACTICE, EMPLOYEE MUST SIGN A COPY OF THE LETTER. WHEN EMPLOYEE REFUSED TO SIGN, OLDS TERMINATED HIM ON THE SPOT. EMPLOYEE CLAIMED OLDS STRUCK HIM (MK DENIES THIS AND WE INCLINED ACCEPT THEIR WORD, IN PART BECAUSE OLDS WAS WELL KNOWN TO, AND FAVORABLY REGARDED BY, ME IN ANOTHER COUNTRY). ALL DAHOMEAN EMPLOYEES OF MK WENT OUT ON STRIKE, DEMANDING REINSTATEMENT OF EMPLOYEE

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AND IMMEDIATE DEPORTATION (LATER CHANGED TO REPATRIATION) OF OLDS.

ACCORDING TO MK, STRIKERS THREATENED THAT IF OLDS WAS NOT REMOVED FROM PROJECT, COMPANY WOULD FIND HIS DEAD BODY IN THEIR OFFICES.

2. MK REQUESTED PROTECTION FROM LOCAL MIL UNIT. MK COTONOU OFFICE RELAYED TO EMBASSY REQUEST FROM PROJECT MANAGER GREEN TO INTERCEDE WITH MIN OF PLAN, STATISTICS AND COORDINATION OF FOREIGN AID FOR ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY DISCUSSED MATTER WITH OFFICIALS OF THAT MINISTRY AS WELL AS MIN OF LAB, IN EACH CASE REQUESTING MINISTRY'S URGENT ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM. AS RESULT, LABMIN SENT ITS PROVINCIAL LABOR OFFICER, RESIDING IN PARAKOU, TO KANDI WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE.

3. PROVINCIAL LABOR OFFICER NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT UNDER WHICH THE DAHOMEAN EMPLOYEE WILL BE REHIRED AFTER ONE-WEEK SUSPENSION. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST OLDS. WORK ON PROJECT RESUMED TODAY 12 MARCH.  
ENGLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, HIGHWAYS, LABOR STRIKES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1975  
**DecapTION Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**DecapTION Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** COTONOU  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PARAKOU-MALANVILLE ROAD - STRIKE AT MK CONSTRUCTION CAMP SUMMARY: MK'S DAHOMEAN LABOR FORCE HELD A TWO-DAY STRIKE  
**TAGS:** EAID, ELAB, DM  
**To:** ABIDJAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006